



7347 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Donald V. Smart GROUP: 2828

SERIAL NO: 09/633,837 EXAMINER: Jackson, C.

FILED: August 7, 2000

FOR: PULSE CONTROL IN LASER SYSTEM

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

This is a request for Continued Examination (CE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

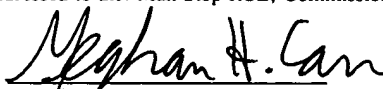
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on December 29, 2003 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL818453290US addressed to the: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Meghan H. Carr

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action of the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
- b. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)
- c. ☐ Other _____

4. Fee Payment

- a. ☒ Checks in the amount of \$770.00 enclosed
- b. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the above fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0079.
- c. ☒ Applicant believes that no extension of time fee is required in view of the one month extension fee paid on October 31, 2003. The one month extended due date is December 27, 2003 (Saturday) and this response is being filed on December 29, 2003 (Monday). If any further extension is deemed necessary, authorization is hereby provided to charge the above fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0079.

Respectfully submitted,



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to continuing examination, please amend the claims as follows:

1-39. (previously canceled).

40. (herein further amended): A method of operating a processor-controlled pulsed laser system comprising a laser source, [~~wherein a pre-selected pulse shape to be produced by the laser source is presettable based on known properties of a target material to be processed on a workpiece, and~~] said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a first time interval between at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto
[a] the workpiece [~~is selectable independently of the pre-selected pulse shape, the method comprising:~~];

pulsing the pulsed laser system by triggering storage of energy by the laser source for a first [~~fixed, predetermined~~] period of time prior to each of a plurality of first emission periods associated with said first time interval [~~regardless of the time interval between the at least two~~